THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) Yes. Sir, Maharashtra is one of the deficit States in production of foodgrains. However, the allocation of foodgrains to various States|UTs from Central Pool under PDS is only supplemental to open market availability and these allocations are made on month to month basis, taking into account the overall availability of stocks in the Central Pool, relative needs of the various States, market availability and other related factors.

(b) Demands for allocation of foodgrains (wheat and rice) under PDS are received on month to month basis from the States|UTs. Maharashtra Government had demanded 23.80 lakh tonnes of foodgrains (wheat and rice) during the year 1988 and 6.55 lakh tonnes during the current year upto March, 1989.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. As a result of a review of allocations of various States|UTs undertaken in the light of the stocks of foodgrains in the Central Pool and better market availability in the wake of a bumper crop khriff paddy and coarse-grains, the rice quota of most States, including Maharashtra, has been reduced by 20 per cent from February, 1989. The rice allocation to Maharashtra has accordingly been reduced from 65,000 tonnes in January to 52.000 tonnes per month from February, 1989. The allocation of wheat to Maharashtra has, however, been raised from 90,000 tonnes in January, 1989 to 94,500 tonnes for February 1989, and further to 1,00000 tonnes for March, 1989.

Increase in the allocation of edible oil to Maharashtra

2803. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of edible oil imported during the last year and likely to be imported in this financial year;

(b) the details of allocations made or are being made to different States;

(c) whether Government of Maharashtra have requested for increasing the allocations of imported edible oil to that State on the ground that it is the most urbanised State in the country and the needs of consumers of that State are highest; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Central Government in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) A quantity of about 19.67 lakh tonnes of edible oils was imported during the last financial year 1987-88. During the current financial year 1988-89 a quantity of about 11 lakh tonnes of edible oils was imported till 31-1-1989.

(b) A statement indicating state-wise allocation of imported edible oils during the oil-year 1988-89, month-wise till February, 1989 is enclosed (See Appendix CXLIX, Annexure No. 152].

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir the Maharashtra Government has from time to time asked for an increase in the allocations of imported edible oils on various grounds. In the present situation of increased availability of indigenous oils and the consequent reduction in imports, it is not possible to increase the monthly allocations of imported edible oils to Maharashtra.

Central Stock of Foodgrains

2804. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the total Central stock of foodgrains at the end of 1980, 1983, 1985 and 1988; and

(b) how this stock has been and is being utilised during this period?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) The stocks of foodgrains with Food Corporation of India at the end of 1980, 1983, 1985 and 1988 were estimated at 8.62, 12.09, 16.88 and 8.05 million tonnes respectively.

(b) The stocks were and are being utilized for meeting the requirements of the public distribution system, inclusive of